

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

LR No.: 880-03
Bill No.: HCS for HB 247, 109, 99, & 100
Subject: Elections: Appropriations
Type: Original
Date: February 27, 2001

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
General Revenue	(\$5,072,238 to Unknown)	(\$9,233,839 to Unknown)	(\$5,081,153 to Unknown)
Highway	(\$7,650)	(\$9,181)	(\$9,181)
Technology	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds *	(\$5,079,888 to Unknown)	(\$9,243,020 to Unknown)	(\$5,090,334 to Unknown)

* Certain Sections are Subject to Appropriation.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 7 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

In response to almost identical legislation the following statements were submitted.

Officials of the **Office of Attorney General** assume any action that could be required pursuant to this proposal, could be absorbed with existing appropriations and staff.

Officials of the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** stated that the main fiscal impact with this proposal would be the costs of conducting early voting. Officials stated that early voting as envisioned could increase local costs in Kansas City by as much as \$20,000, possibly more. Officials stated costs would be driven by staffing and overtime. Officials estimate the costs of other requirements of this proposal, regulations, new posters at polls, multilingual forms, provisional ballots, etc. at approximately \$10,000.

Officials of the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** stated that the costs associated with early voting would cost additional money for workers, overtime pay, postage, etc.. Officials estimated costs for a 4 year election cycle would be \$2,745,511.

Officials of the **Department of Revenue- Division of Motor Vehicles and Driver Licensing** stated that to comply with Section 115.151.3 of this proposal the Customer Assistance Bureau would require additional funding for postage associated with more frequent mailing of voter registration applications to local election authorities. Officials stated that to comply with this proposal the Bureau would have to mail applications twice per week. Currently, offices mail applications once per week. Officials estimate postage and envelope cost for 10 months of FY 2002 at \$7,650; in FY 2003 \$9,181; and in FY 2004 \$9,181.

Officials of the **Office of Secretary of State** assume they would need 1.0 FTE, a Grant Administrator. Officials estimate costs for salary, fringe benefits, equipment and expense for 10 months of FY 2002 \$68,738; for FY 2003 \$75,669 ; and \$77,653 in FY 2004. Officials estimated the grant programs as follows: Increasing pay for election judges in even numbered years the cost would be \$0 to \$25,000 and in odd numbered years \$50,000 to \$100,000; grants for youth voting programs \$100,000 annually; per Section 115.126, funding request for advanced voting from local election authorities would be submitted to the SOS to be submitted to the Governor to request funding for advanced voting. If no appropriation is made the locals would not be required to offer advanced voting, cost will be shown as \$0 to Unknown;

Officials of the **Office of Administration** assume this proposal requires the state to pay it's proportional share for Primary and General elections. The cost of the Presidential Primary in March, 2000 was paid by the state, in total. That cost was \$3,709,670. Officials assume that the State's proportional share of Primary and General election cost would be half that amount,

ASSUMPTION (continued)

therefore, the State's proportional cost for the Primary and General elections falling in FY 2003 would be \$3,700,000. Officials assume that currently the state would have had to provide \$205,000 in FY 2003 to pay the cost of producing ballots for elections when only one files for a Committee post, (Section 115.617). Officials assume there would be cost associated with "early voting". Officials estimate the low range for cost at \$600,000 and estimate the high range at \$3,960,000. Officials based their estimate on a news article in the February 6 issue of the Columbian Missourian, (Section 115.126.3).

Officials of the **Office of State Courts Administrator** Officials stated that if the word "provide" remains in the legislation and is not changed to "prescribe", there could be a fiscal impact to the Supreme Court. Currently, the Supreme Court provides the instructions for forms, etc. to the courts, but does not actually provide the forms for the courts. If the Supreme Court is required to provide the forms, the cost could range from \$3,500 to \$8,000, depending on the need, the type of form and the costs associated with transportation of the forms.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2002 (10 Mo.)	FY 2003	FY 2004
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HIGHWAY FUND

Cost to Department of Revenue
 from compliance with Section 115.151.3
 Postage and envelopes

<u>(\$7,650)</u>	<u>(\$9,181)</u>	<u>(\$9,181)</u>
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GENERAL REVENUE FUND

Savings to Office of Administration
 from paying printing of ballots when one
 person files for committee posts. 115.617

\$0	\$205,000	\$0
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Cost to Office of Administration

Paying Proportional Cost of General
 /Primary Elections

\$0	(\$3,709,670)	\$0
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Early Voting (115.126.3)
 Reimbursing counties

<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$600,000 to \$3,960,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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Total Cost to Office of Administration

<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$4,104,670 to \$7,464,670)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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Cost to Secretary of State

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2002 (10 Mo.)	FY 2003	FY 2004
for:			
Personal Service (1.0 FTE)	(\$33,354)	(\$41,025)	(\$42,050)
Fringe Benefits	(\$11,117)	(\$13,674)	(\$14,015)
Equipment and Expense	<u>(\$24,267)</u>	<u>(\$20,970)</u>	<u>(\$21,588)</u>
Subtotal	(\$68,738)	(\$75,669)	(\$77,653)
Election Judges Compensation \$7 per hr.* (115.102)	\$0 to (\$25,000)	(\$50,000 to\$100,000)	\$0 to(\$25,000)
“ Kids Voting” * (115.801)	\$0 to (\$100,000)	\$0 to (100,000)	\$0 to (\$100,000)
Grant for improving election equipment* (115.074)	(\$5,000,000 to Unknown)	(\$5,000,000 to Unknown)	(\$5,000,000 to Unknown)
Cost to Supreme Court (115.429.4) for providing forms	(\$3,500 to \$8,000)	(\$3,500 to \$8,000)	(\$3,500 to \$8,000)
Estimated Net Effect to General Revenue Fund	(\$5,072,238 to Unknown)	(\$9,233,839 to Unknown)	(\$5,081,153 to Unknown)
* Amount subject to appropriation			

(6 Mo.)

TECHNOLOGY TRUST FUND

Cost to Technology Trust Fund for Election related requirements * (28.160.4(9))	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>
Estimated Net Effect to Technology Trust Fund	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>
* Amount would be subject to appropriation.			

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2002 (10 Mo.)	FY 2003	FY 2004
Income to Election Authorities from SOS for equipment grant *	\$5,000,000 to Unknown	\$5,000,000 to Unknown	\$5,000,000 to Unknown

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2002 (10 Mo.)	FY 2003	FY 2004
<u>Income</u> to Election Authorities from SOS for election judge salary*	\$0 to \$100,000	\$0 to \$100,000	\$0 to \$100,000
<u>Income</u> to Election Authorities from OA for Early Voting	\$0	\$600,000 to \$3,960,000	\$0
<u>Cost</u> to Election Authorities from upgrading election equipment *	(\$5,000,000 to Unknown)	(\$5,000,000 to Unknown)	(\$5,000,000 to Unknown)
<u>Cost</u> to Election Authorities from increasing election judges to \$7 *	\$0 to (\$100,000)	\$0 to (\$100,000)	\$0 to (\$100,000)
<u>Cost</u> to Local Election Authorities for Voting Early requirements, and other election related requirements	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$600,000 to \$3,960,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Estimated Net Effect to Local Government	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

* **Costs or Income to Counties is Subject to Appropriation by the General Assembly.
 Oversight assumes that Unknown costs would also cancel out to a zero fiscal impact.**

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This act makes numerous changes to existing election law. With respect to voting, election authorities shall establish an advance voting period. Sole caretakers of the ill or disabled may vote absentee. Persons in federal service in remote areas may fax their absentee ballots. Polling places must have large posters of voting instructions. The Secretary of State may develop multi-lingual voting instructions and sample ballots. Butterfly ballots are prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Secretary of State. This act authorizes the use of computerized voting systems.

Election judges may take time off from work without penalty. Election judges may be from any political party or have no party affiliation. Also, each established political party may have a non-voting representative to boards of election authorities. This act directs the Secretary of State to set statewide uniform counting standards. This act deletes the provision giving election judges discretion to count ballots where a voter's intent seems clear. This act also deletes the provision stating that ballots will not be rejected for containing fewer marks than required by law.

This act authorizes the Secretary of State to request appropriations from the General Assembly for election services and equipment and, subject to appropriations, to administer matching grant programs for improving voting processes or equipment, for youth voting programs, and for increasing pay for election judges. This act permits election authorities to receive federal grants for improving the election process in federal elections.

Regarding enforcement of election laws, this act grants the Secretary of State subpoena powers to investigate allegations of election law violations. The Attorney General may prosecute allegations of election fraud and irregularity.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of Administration
Secretary of State
Office of Attorney General
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission
Kansas City Board of Election Commission
Department of Revenue
Office of State Courts Administrator



Jeanne Jarrett, CPA
Director
February 23, 2001